and immobilized microbial consortia for degradation of oily sludge etc. The National Bioresource Development Board (NBDB) has been set up mainly for development and sustainable utilization of bioresources especially for the development of new products and processes through biotechnological interventions.The DBT has recently established an autonomous institute namely Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) at Imphal, Manipur. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has a network programme on "Discovery of new bioactive molecules" where many national labs/universities are involved in collecting microorganisms from different ecological ninches, making extracts and screening the same against targets. These microorganisms are preserved in Microbial Type Culture Collections at IMTECH, Chandigarh for future use.

(b) Based on the available data, the total amount of herbs (such as Psyllium husk and seeds, opium poppy, seena leaves and pods and tukmaria) exported during the last five years are: 26, 433 tonnes (1996-97); 25,991 tonnes (1997-98); 22,176 tonnes (1998-99); 23,030 tonnes (1999-2000); 27,863 tonnes (2000-01).The year-wise export of germplasm lines of various crops from India for research purpose to other countries during the last five years are 174 germplasm accessions (Year 1998), 546 germplasm accessions (Year: 1999) 250 germplasm accessions (Year: 2000), 100 germplasm accession (Year: 2001) and 172 germplasm accessions (Year: 2002).There is no authentic data available on quantity of the export of micro-organisms during the last five years.

Development of Chiria Iron ore mines of IISCO by SAIL

1220. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL is investing Rs. 300 crore in development of Chiria Iron Ore Mines of IISCO, as reported in the media recently;

(b) if so, whether the same is carried out as a part of revival package of IISCO; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount mobilised, so far, through market bonds floated by IISCO for its revival;

(d) whether any provisions has been made to make up the short fall in mobilisation of the above fund against the targeted amount; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However at Chiria Iron Ore Mine potential exists for enhancing gross margins through Build Own Operate (Boo) arrangement for higher lump production and the same has been considered in the revival plan.

(c) Rs. 64 crores have been mobilized so far.

(d) and (e) Any shortfall in mobilisation of funds will be met by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

Working of SAIL Plants

1221. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India plants worked well above capacity, operating at an average of 102 per cent of their capacity during the first six months of the current year; if so, the details of production and productivity, plant-wise;

(b) how the per Rs. 1000 crores productivity of the SAIL plants compare with that in Japan, Germany and other major steel producing countries; and

(c) the details of the capacity expansion plans of the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Plant-wise details of saleable steel production and labour productivity of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the first six months (in the current year 2003-04) are as follows:

Plant	Saleable Steel Production '000T	% Capacity Utilization
Bhilai Steel Plant	2015	128
Durgapur Steel Plant	743	94
Rourkela Steel Plant	796	95